

# August 2023 PROGRAMS

All programs are free and open to the public. An adult must accompany children. Reasonable accommodations available upon request. Programs meet at the Houghton’s Pond Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. Inclement weather may cancel programs. To confirm or for more information please call (857) 208-8498.

Tuesdays  
August

**Family Nature Exploration, 10:00 am—11:00 am**  
On Tuesday mornings, explore the natural side of Blue Hills Reservation. For families and curious adults.

**August 1, 15 & 29—Raccoons: Thieves in the Night:** Raccoons are more than dumpster divers, they are survivors. Raccoons have long lived alongside humans. Because of some remarkable adaptations, they now thrive in the modern world.

**August 8 & 22 — A Murder Most Fowl:** Crows are remarkably social and intelligent animals. These clever birds have long been a source of fascination and lore. See how different cultures have viewed crows throughout history and how these myths are often supported by the latest scientific research.

Tuesdays  
August 1, 15,  
22 & 29

**Exploring the Blue Hills, 2:30 pm—4:00 pm**  
On Tuesday afternoons, explore the hidden gems of Blue Hills Reservation, on moderate, 2-3 mile hikes.

**August 1 & 22—Heart Healthy Hike** Come and join us for a restful and rejuvenating heart healthy, 1.1-mile hike around Houghton’s Pond. *Meet at the Visitor Center.*

**August 15 & 29—Burnt Hill and Beyond:** Explore the hidden trails behind Houghton’s Pond. *Meet at Visitor Center*

Thursdays  
August 3, 10,  
17 & 31

**History in the Hills, 9:00 am—10:30 am**  
On Wednesday mornings, learn about the history of the Blue Hills Reservation. For adults and children over 12.

**August 3 & 17— Charles Eliot’s Dream** Charles Eliot was a dreamer. He dreamed about what public parks could be and helped to create the Emerald Necklace, the Trustees of the Reservation, and the Metropolitan Parks Commission, the precursor to the DCR, as well as the Blue Hills Reservation. Come explore the life and work of one of the founding fathers of Massachusetts conservation. Accessible lecture at Visitor Center.

**August 10 & 31 —The Tree Army**  
During the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt sent millions of young men to improve and expand the parks of America. Come learn the incredible story of the CCC here in the Blue Hills. Accessible lecture meets at Visitor Center.



PROGRAMS CONTINUE ON NEXT PAGE

coming events

# August 2023 PROGRAMS

## PROGRAMS CONTINUED

- Thursdays  
August 3, 10,  
17 & 31

**Summer Strolls, 3:00 pm—4:00 pm**  
Join us for summertime fun and voyage into the unknown in the Blue Hills!  
**August 3 & 17— Marsh Madness:** The lovely Marigold Marsh is a vital habitat and home to many species of birds and reptiles, as they breed, feed and get ready for the (not so far off) winter. All ages.  
**August 10 & 31— Wellness in the Woods :** Enjoy a quiet and contemplative 1.1 mile guided forest meditation walk. Suitable for adults and children 7 and up.
- Fridays,  
August 4, 11  
& 18

**Kidleidoscope, 10:00 am—11:00 am**  
Join us for nature crafts and nature facts! Each week we will feature a different nature theme and a craft on that theme. Suitable for ages 4-10 accompanied by an adult.
- Saturdays  
August 5, 12,  
19 & 26

**Family Nature Exploration, 10:00 am—11:00 am** On Saturday mornings, explore the natural side of Blue Hills Reservation. For families and curious adults.  
**August 5 & 19 —Fire in the Hills:** Forest fires have impacted the lives of humans for as long as there have been humans in these hills. Join us for a discussion on the history of fires in the hills, what was done right and wrong to fight them, and what challenges climate change poses for fighting fires in Massachusetts in the future.  
**August 12 & 26 —Volcanic Granite:** Hundreds of millions of years ago the Blue Hills was a raging volcano. Join us for a geological hike on this extinct volcano and learn about the granite it left behind and how people have used that marvelous stone for thousands of years.
- Saturdays  
August 5, 12  
& 19

**Nice and Easy Hiking Series, 1:00 pm—2:30 pm**  
Looking to get outdoors and take a gentle, guided hike in the beautiful Blue Hills? Join us for our weekly series of leisurely paced nature hikes (1.5-3 miles long). Learn about nature at your own pace and make some friends along the way. All ages.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Saturday,  
August 26

**SE MA ADULT WALKING CLUB HIKE, 1:00 pm—3:00 pm**  
A 5-mile hike around beautiful Ponkapoag Pond. Moderately difficult with a gentle grade throughout. Meet at 2167 Washington Stret, Canton.

